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THE
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FEMALE SOCIETY
OF THE
CITY OF NEW-YORK,
FOR THE
SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS IN AFRICA.

THE
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
AND
CIRCULAR
OF THE
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The First Annual Meeting of this Society was held in the Brick Church Chapel, on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1834.

The meeting was opened with prayer, by the Rev. Dr. De Witt. After the reading and acceptance of the Reports, the ladies were stimulated to more vigorous efforts by addresses from Rev. Mr. Breckenridge, Rev. Mr. Woods, and Rev. Mr. Jackson.

The following Officers were elected for the ensuing year :

Mrs. J. E. CALDWELL,	1st Directress,	34 Greenwich-st.
Mrs. G. WARNER,	2d Directress,	
Mrs. D. CODWISE,	Treasurer,	8 St. Mark's Pl.
Mrs. N. LITTLEFIELD,	Cor. Sec'y.	226 Fourth-st.
Mrs. S. CONVERSE,	Rec. Sec'y,	21 Broadway.

Executive Committee.

Mrs. W. JACKSON,	}	Episcopal Church,
Miss ANN DOMINICK,		
Mrs. E. MERRILL,	}	Presbyterian Church,
Mrs. R. OLMSTEAD,		
Mrs. EVERTSON,	}	Collegiate Churches,
Mrs. VAN PELT,		
Mrs. COBB,		South Dutch Church,
Mrs. JACOB BININGER,		Moravian Church,
Mrs. HAWKHURST,	}	Friends' Society,
Miss LUCY EDDY,		
Mrs. LEE,		Baptist.

Managers.

Mrs. James Suydam,	Mrs. Horace Holden,
Mrs. A. G. Phelps,	Mrs. Barfe,
Mrs. Wm. L. Stone,	Mrs. Skidmore,
Mrs. J. L. Mason,	Mrs. M. Van Brunt,
Mrs. F. Doremus,	Mrs. W. Colgate,
Mrs. J. Aspinwall,	Mrs. J. M. Gould,
Mrs. George Nixon,	Mrs. John Wurtz,
Mrs. George S. Robbins,	Mrs. J. W. Dominick,
Mrs. Edward Field,	Mrs. F. Winston,
Mrs. E. Blake,	Mrs. Bethune,
Mrs. R. L. Nevins,	Miss Donaldson,
Mrs. Fullerton,	Miss M. N. Bleecker,
Mrs. D. Hale,	Miss Agnes Craig,
Mrs. J. R. Davidson,	Miss E. A. Mead,
Mrs. Gamaliel Smith,	Miss Boyd,
Mrs. Edward Clark,	Miss J. M. Davenport,
Mrs. James Boorman,	Miss Duyckinck.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

The deep and increasing interest which has recently been awakened in the cause of Africa, while it has aroused all the energies and sympathies of the philanthropist, has also led to the inquiry, What practical system could be put in operation for the benefit of that race, whose claims upon our consideration have become, in this enlightened age, so prominent and so obligatory ?

The ladies of this city, wishing, while they would humbly do their part toward the amelioration of *all* misery, to avoid entering the field of disputation, which is so remote from their appropriate sphere, have thought that, by engaging in the work of diffusing education, they should not only be acting in that province most congenial to their disposition, but should also be employed in a branch of charity in which there would be no dissenting voice. All acknowledge the importance of education ; and surely no spot offers a more interesting field than that vast continent, which, until quite recently, has had so small a share of our attention and efforts.

Acting upon this consideration, a Society was organized in December, 1833 ; and, with deep gratitude for the liberal encouragement they have hitherto received, the Managers now present their First Annual Report.

As soon as practicable after the formation of the Society, two competent teachers were selected, both of whom were gentlemen of education and piety ; one having graduated at Amherst College, and being highly recommended by Presi-

dent Humphreys, and the other a graduate of Princeton. These gentlemen, together with a female teacher sent out by the Methodist Episcopal ladies of this city, sailed for Africa in June last.

Perhaps the views of the Society as to their particular sphere of labor, will be best seen by a copy of the letter of instructions presented them by our Board of Managers before their departure.

**Letter of instructions to Mr. Josiah Finley, and
Mr. Israel Serle.**

The Managers of the "Female Society for the support of Schools in Africa," while they rejoice in being permitted to engage in the important and interesting work of sending Christian education to those darkened shores, feel deeply the responsibility they incur, in selecting and sending forth teachers who may not only be such as the world, but God shall approve. In confiding to you the important trust of guiding so many immortal souls into the paths of righteousness, and instructing them in the things pertaining not only to this life, but that which is to come, they give you the fullest proof of their confidence not only in your ability, but in your devotedness to the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ, for whose sake, and in obedience to whose command, we send you forth as leaders to the blind, and a light to those who are ready to perish for lack of knowledge.

It is not necessary for us to enter into the particulars here, of the trials you must expect to encounter, or the discouragements you will undoubtedly often meet with. Believing that these you have fully considered, we would prefer to point you to all the glorious incitements to faithful perseverance, and say to you, "Be of good cheer; lo, Jesus is with you to the end of the world." By an article of our Con-

stitution you will perceive that it is our design to send out *Christian* teachers only: this will show you the importance we attach to religious instruction. While we are anxious for the intellectual improvement of all those under your care, it is our wish that the great principles of evangelical truth be carefully and perseveringly instilled, and that all your instructions should have reference, as far as possible, to moral and religious improvement. This is our great design, and we trust you will give it your earnest efforts, and your ardent prayers.

On your arrival at Liberia, should your health be preserved, it is our wish that you consult such missionaries and teachers as may already be established there, with regard to the best locations for schools; and when this is ascertained, engage suitable rooms and commence schools as soon as is consistent with due regard to health; attention to which should always be considered the first duty. It is our wish, if possible, to have one of our first schools established at Bassa Cove, where the New-York colony will soon be planted; but of the practicability of this we must leave you to judge.

The greater the number of *natives*, young or old, who can be gathered into your schools, the more it will meet our views and wishes. Our only desire is for the general good of Africa; therefore natives and colonists would alike be objects of our care and attention.

In your communications to our Board, which we hope will be very frequent, we request that you will write us very particularly and circumstantially, telling us the price of board and lodging, rent of school-room, &c. &c. and keep careful accounts for our inspection at the close of the year.

It is also our request that you would watch over and

give us accounts of (from time to time) such female schools as may be established by this Board in your vicinity.

In all communications, we wish our Association recognised as independent of any other: if therefore you have any information to give, which might benefit the operations of other benevolent societies, we wish it to be transmitted through us, and that no official communications be made in any other way.

Be assured we shall watch your course with great interest; and you shall have our heartfelt prayers not only for success in all your efforts for the good of Africa, but that you may yourselves experience the rich reward attendant upon all those who forsake *all* for Him "who hath redeemed us by his blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."

June 16th, 1834.

The length of time that has elapsed since our teachers sailed, has not allowed us as yet to hear of their arrival in Africa, which we are now daily hoping to do.* We have been much gratified during the past year by the co-operation of ladies of so many different denominations in this effort for the civilization of Africa. The ladies of the Reformed Dutch Church have raised funds sufficient for the support of one teacher; the ladies of the Presbyterian Church one; and the ladies of the Episcopal Church expect to employ a female teacher already on the ground. We have also received with much gratitude the sum of one hundred dollars from the ladies of the Society of Friends; and as the Methodist Episcopal

* Since the writing of the Report, we have heard of their safe arrival in good health.

ladies, as before mentioned, have sent out a teacher, (though, from previous arrangements with their Missionary Society, not *nominally* connected with us,) we can now state that the ladies of New-York are at present supporting four teachers in Liberia. We are on terms of friendly correspondence with the Methodist Episcopal ladies, who would undoubtedly have united with us, had they not previously been auxiliary to the Wesleyan Female Missionary Society, through which it is necessary for them to transmit their funds.

The precise amount necessary for the support of schools in Africa we cannot as yet positively state, but from the best information we have obtained, we believe that in no case will the expenses exceed 500 dollars for a male school, and 300 for a female.* We trust that it is not too much to expect, that in a very few years our aid will be unnecessary, and that those to whom we now send teachers may not only support their own, but send others to those more destitute around them.

It has been to us a source of much gratification to observe the increasing interest felt in the cause of African civilization, both by the ladies of our own country and those of England and Scotland. A correspondence has been opened with the Ladies' Liberia Association in Philadelphia, and also with several ladies actively engaged in the cause in Scotland, and we cannot better close our Report than with an extract from the circular of the ladies of Edinburgh, and which is equally applicable to ourselves.

“To Africa we owe a debt, which no aspirations, no ex-

* When we consider that each school may contain from two to three hundred scholars, who can estimate the amount of good that may thus be accomplished?

ertions, no sacrifices on our part, will be sufficient to cancel. The tenants of her wilderness have been in turn incited to barbarity, and made subjects of cruelty by Britons. If they have trusted a white man, they have been betrayed—if they have heard the name of our God, it was in profanation and blasphemy. If their benighted minds were ever led to a comparison between the religion of the white and colored man, it was to prefer their own cruel, superstitious and puerile ceremonies to the light of that religion which the white man dishonored. We are called upon therefore to be exceedingly glad that America has at last planted the tree of liberty on the promontory of Liberia. We are called upon to cheer her in her enterprise, not of benevolence only, but of restitution. We are called upon to combine our prayers, our hopes, our efforts with hers, and to do what we can to plant our tree also on that injured shore.”

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called "The Female Society of the city of New-York, for the support of Schools in Africa."

ARTICLE II.

The object of this Society shall be to prepare and support christian teachers for the missionary settlement of New-York in Liberia, and, as far as practicable, for other portions of Africa.

ARTICLE III.

The officers of the Society shall be a First and Second Directress, a Treasurer, a Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary, and Managers, who shall be annually elected. They shall meet semi-annually for the transaction of business, and nine shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IV.

The Board of Managers shall appoint an Executive Committee, consisting of one or two from each denomination, together with the officers of the Society, to transact business during the recess of the Board.

The Executive Committee shall meet on the first Wednesday of each month, and four shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V.

Each church may send one representative to the meetings of the Executive Committee, who shall be permitted to participate in the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VI.

Each denomination shall have the power to appoint their own teacher, provided they pledge themselves to raise adequate funds for the support of the school to which such teacher may be appointed.

ARTICLE VII.

Each subscriber of one dollar annually shall be a member of the Society.

ARTICLE VIII.

Each contributor of twenty dollars at one time shall be a member for life.

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CIRCULAR.

The Managers of the "Female Society of the city of New-York, for the support of schools in Africa," feeling very deeply the importance of the cause in which they are engaged, and being desirous of still further extending the blessings of education over that heathen land than they are able alone to do, have resolved to address a few lines to some of those friends of whose interest in the welfare of Africa they assure themselves, and while they inform them of the efforts they themselves are making, to solicit their co-operation either in forming similar associations in other places, or by directly aiding the one already organized here.

By the Report which accompanies this you will learn what progress we have already made, and will also observe that we are free from all party or sectarian spirit, and that our Executive Committee is composed of ladies from various denominations of Christians.

In the present state of excited feeling on the subject of slavery, we have thought best to keep our Association independent of all others, and viewing the object entirely in the light of a missionary enterprise, we hope that all who feel an interest in the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, will aid us in sending the blessings of the Gospel to the long-neglected shores of Africa.

Of the importance of supplying that heathen land with means of improvement and civilization, at this interesting period, when she seems literally to stretch forth her hands for the Gospel, we doubt not you are aware ; but you will, we trust, excuse us for giving you a short extract from the

Report of the missionaries of the American Board for Foreign Missions, Messrs. Wilson and Wynkoop, on their recent return from Africa.

“ Along the whole coast where we have been, we uniformly found the people desirous of schools ; and from what we have seen ourselves, and what we have heard from others, we are induced to believe that there is not a town on the coast where a Christian teacher would not be heartily welcomed. We would confidently say that there is a universal desire, nay, an imperious demand for Christian schools. Wherever it was made known to the inhabitants of the towns on the southern coast, that we were going to Cape Palmas, for the purpose of teaching the natives, we received applications to send American teachers to their towns. From those to whom we could not promise teachers, we had multiplied, pressing solicitations to receive their sons at Cape Palmas and educate them there. Not unfrequently they asked a written promise to this effect. The town of Settra Kroo, one of the most important on the coast, some time since sent to Monrovia for a teacher, promising at the same time to provide him a house. At Rock Town, where we held an interview with the king and his head men, on the subject of establishing a school. they absolutely refused to “ set the palaver,” or let us go, until we had given them a written promise that a teacher should be sent them if possible. And after we were distant 200 miles on our way home, we received a message from them, reminding us of our promise.

This desire for schools has doubtless grown out of an acquaintance with civilized nations. The people have thus been led to appreciate the advantages which education confers : and if one may judge from the example of a few natives whom we have seen pursuing their education, and the earnestness and facility with which they learn, we cannot

think that any judicious effort to meet their desires in this respect will be fruitless."

This intelligence, which has arrived since the formation of our Society, has caused us to feel truly grateful that our thoughts and hearts were directed to this important work even before we knew the *extent* of the desires of this neglected people for the blessings of a Christian education.

We hope for your encouragement and co-operation, and shall at any time be glad to give you any information in our power with regard to forming associations, or establishing schools.



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